

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 05380 311322Z  
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15  
L-03 PA-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 /066 W  
-----058282 311330Z /53-L

P 311311Z MAR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6673  
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: JA, KS, KN, YU  
SUBJECT: PRESS REPORTS TITO INITIATIVE ON KOREA

REF: (A) TOKYO 05240, (B) SEOUL 081722

1. IN ADDITION TO POINTS NOTED REFTELS, MARCH 30 MAINICHI ARTICLE POINTED TO NUMBER OF RECENT HIGH-LEVEL EXCHANGES BETWEEN YUGOSLAVIA AND DPRK AS EVIDENCE THAT TITO INITIATIVE HAD BEEN TAKING SHAPE FOR SOME TIME, BEGINNING WITH TITO VISIT TO DPRK IN AUGUST 1977 (DURING WHICH ESPECIALLY LAVISH WELCOME ACCORDED TITO REGARDED AS POSSIBLE INDICATION OF DPRK APPRECIATION FOR TITO'S EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF BETTER DPRK RELATIONS WITH US). DISPATCH OF TWO DPRK DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS TO BELGRADE WITHIN FORTY-FIVE DAYS, JUST BEFORE AND JUST AFTER TITO VISIT TO US ALSO CITED.

2. ARTICLE SAID THAT BECAUSE OF COMPLICATIONS IN ITS RELATIONS WITH PEKING AND MOSCOW DUE TO SINO-SOVIET DISPUTE, DPRK PLACED GREAT IMPORTANCE ON ITS DIPLOMATIC TIES WITH YUGOSLAVIA, AND WOULD HAVE TO GIVE SERIOUS  
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CONSIDERATION TO TITO'S PROPOSAL.

3. IN PAGE FOUR COMMENTARY ON ARTICLE, MAINICHI REPORTER TOMOKAZU SHIGEMURA NOTED THAT, WHILE DPRK HAD MADE NO LARGE SHIFT IN ITS POLICY, THERE WERE INDICATIONS IT WAS CONSIDERING "GERMAN FORMULA." HE SAID GOJ MOFA ANALYSTS NOTED THAT KIM IL-SUNG DOWNPLAYED UNIFICATION THEME IN

THIS YEAR'S NEW YEAR'S ADDRESS, AND THAT DPRK ATTITUDE FURTHER SHIFTED DURING VISIT OF GDR PRESIDENT HONECKER TO PYONGYANG IN JANUARY 1978. WHILE KIM IL-SUNG'S GREETING TO HONECKER REJECTED COMPARISON OF GERMAN AND KOREAN PROBLEMS, FINAL COMMUNIQUE MADE NO MENTION OF DISTINCTION. HONECKER REPORT TO SOVIET UNION FOLLOWING VISIT CITED AS EVIDENCE MOSCOW ALSO BACKING "GERMAN FORMULA."

4. COMMENTARY CLAIMED THAT THAW IN US-DPRK RELATIONS BEGAN JANUARY 1977, WITH DPRK DISCONTINUING USE OF "US IMPERIALISM" FOR US, AND CALLED ATTENTION TO LETTER FROM KIM IL-SUNG TO PRESIDENT CARTER THROUGH PAKISTAN PM BHUTTO. IN RESPONSE, PRESIDENT REPORTEDLY SENT THREE-POINT LETTER TO TITO IN AUGUST 1978 TO EFFECT THAT US WOULD NOT DEAL WITH DPRK WITHOUT PRESENCE OF ROK; WOULD HOLD CONFERENCE AMONG CONCERNED NATIONS, INCLUDING ROKG AND DPRK; AND WOULD PROMOTE "CROSS RECOGNITION" FORMULA.

5. COMMENTARY CONCLUDED BY NOTING THAT DPRK HAD BEEN SHOWING SOME INDICATIONS OF MORE REALISTIC ATTITUDE, SEEN IN COMMENT OF DPRK FOMIN HOVTAM IN NEW YORK LAST YEAR THAT IT WOULD BE "ALL RIGHT" TO DECIDE ON PARTICIPATION OF ROK FOLLOWING TALKS BETWEEN US AND DPRK (SIC). ON OTHER HAND, ARTICLE CLAIMED ROK WAS ALSO TRYING TO EXPAND CONTACTS WITH COMMUNIST COUNTRIES AND REPORTED RUMORS OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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UNOFFICIAL ROK CONTACTS WITH PRC AND SOVIET UNION.

6. INTERESTINGLY, OTHER PAPERS TOOK NO NOTE OF MAINICHI STORY AND THERE WERE NO FURTHER REPORTS, EITHER IN MAINICHI OR OTHER PAPERS, MORNING MARCH 31. MANSFIELD

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FOREIGN RELATIONS, PRESS COMMENTS  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
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**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** PEPR, PDIP, SOPN, JA, KS, KN, YO, (TITO, JOSIP BROZ)  
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